

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-16 are pending. Claims 1, 3-5, and 8-12 are amended, and claims 13-16 are added. Claims 1 and 15 are independent. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Reasons for Entry of Amendments

At the outset, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered into the Official File in view of the fact that the amendments to the claims automatically place the application in condition for allowance.

In the alternative, if the Examiner does not agree that this application is in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purpose of appeal. This Amendment was not presented at an earlier date in view of the fact that Applicants did not fully appreciate the Examiner's position until the Final Office Action was reviewed.

Examiner Interview

If, during further examination of the present application, a discussion with the Applicants' Representative would advance the prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Carl T. Thomsen, Registration No. 50,786, at 1-703-208-4030 (direct line) at his convenience.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3-5 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiff (U.S. 4,815,689) in view of Galicia (U.S. 2001/0000443).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 15

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, **independent claim 1** has been amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an integrated mirror mounted on a front pillar of a vehicle including *inter alia*

“coupling means extending from inner and outer sides of the front pillar for coupling the inside mirror part and the outside mirror part so that their respective mirror faces are parallel with respect to each other; and

attaching means provided at a midpoint along a length of the coupling means and mounted rotatably inside an upper part of the front pillar for attaching the integrated mirror to the front pillar.”

In addition, **independent claim 15** has been added herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an integrated mirror mounted on a front pillar of a vehicle including *inter alia*

“coupling means extending from inner and outer sides of the front pillar for coupling the inside mirror part and the outside mirror part so that their respective mirror faces are parallel with respect to each other;

ball-shaped attaching means provided partway along the coupling means and mounted rotatably and housed inside an upper part of the front pillar for attaching the integrated mirror to the front pillar; and

flexible packing disposed around the ball-shaped attaching means inside the front pillar to enable adjustment of the inside and outside mirror parts.”

Regarding Schiff

The Schiff document merely disclose an inside mirror part 25 and an outside mirror part 24 that are mounted to the driver’s door 13 via ball 36 and bracket 18, and not to an “attaching means (or a ball-shaped attaching means) mounted rotatably and housed inside the front pillar for attaching the integrated mirror to the front pillar”, as disclosed in each of independent claims 1 and 15.

Moreover, Schiff does not teach “flexible packing disposed inside the front pillar and around the ball-shaped attaching means inside the front pillar to enable adjustment of the inside and outside mirror parts”, as set forth in independent claim 15.

Regarding Galicia

As for Galicia, this document discloses a completely different arrangement.

The Examiner refers to Galicia FIG. 7, which shows separately adjustable mirrors 11, 12, on the same horizontal line 73 as the center view mirror. While this allows a driver’s eyes to scan along a single horizontal line, the Galicia mirrors are not parallel to each other, and three overlapping rear views are provided to the driver. Since Galicia teaches non-

parallel mirrors in each and every one of the embodiments, Galicia **“teaches away”** from the present invention.

In addition, Galicia provides no suggestion of an “attaching means (or a ball-shaped attaching means) mounted rotatably and housed inside the front pillar”, as disclosed in each of independent claims 1 and 15.

Moreover, while Examiner asserts on page 3 of the Office Action that “the center rear view mirror ... is generally understood in art to be above a driver’s view point”, the Examiner has provided NO evidence that one skilled in the art would arrange the parallel mirrors of the present invention at the level of the center rearview mirror 72” of Galicia FIG. 7. Certainly, primary reference Schiff provides no suggestion of this.

In addition, even if, for the sake of argument, the parallel mirrors of the present invention were arranged at the same level as center rear view mirror 72 of Galicia, there is no explicit teaching that this level meets the requirements of the present invention, namely that “the inside mirror part and the outside mirror part are disposed at a height above the driver’s view point position.” Galicia provides no teaching of “a height above the driver’s view point position.”

Further, Galicia does not teach “flexible packing disposed inside the front pillar and around the ball-shaped attachment means an to enable adjustment of the inside and outside mirror parts,” as set forth in independent claim 15.

In view of the above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in his rejection. Galicia fails to make up for

the deficiency of Schiff, which would be required for the combination of Galicia and Schiff to teach the inventions set forth in independent claims 1 and 15 of the present application.

At least for the reasons explained above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 15 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Schiff and Galicia.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Dependent Claims

The Examiner will note that dependent claims 3-5 and 8-12 have been amended, and dependent claims 13, 14, and 16 have been added to set forth additional novel features of the invention.

All dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel features set forth therein.

All pending claims are no in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

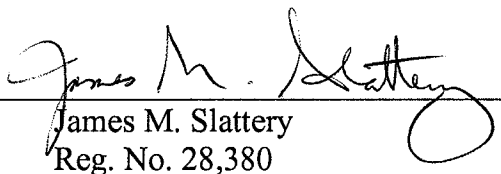
All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (direct line).

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,
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